



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

April 20, 2007

News from the Chief

For more than a year now, we in the police department and a number of community leaders in Nashville have been increasingly concerned about juvenile crime in our city. While a number of efforts are being spearheaded by ministers, juvenile court, the Department of Children's Services, and our officers to reverse the disturbing trend, the numbers for the first quarter of 2007 tell us that much more must be done to engage parents and family units.

Through March 31, the number of juveniles arrested for armed robbery has increased by an alarming 63% when compared to the first quarter of 2006. The 56 young persons arrested for robbery this year had already amassed a total of 387 prior charges in their arrest histories. Those prior charges include 89 robbery offenses, seven homicide/attempted homicide offenses, and 22 weapons charges.

I am encouraged by this month's launch of a police department pilot program entitled the Youth and Family Outreach Project. Officers from the East Precinct and the Youth Services Division, accompanied by two members of the clergy, visited the homes of prospective gang members in the McFerrin Park and North 2nd Street areas. The purpose of the visits is not to point fingers, but rather to offer help to families affected by violence and gang activity. In most instances, the parents/guardians we have visited have been receptive. Most of the mothers spoke of the real need for their sons to have positive role models and mentors. Those parents were given the contact information for various social agencies who can offer assistance. Based on the response thus far, I look for the Youth and Family Outreach Project to expand to other areas.

On another front, adult recidivism continues to be a significant issue. During the 12-month period that ended March 31, just more than 13,000 persons had been arrested for crimes such as homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, drug offenses, or weapons offenses. Of those persons, half had been previously convicted of the same offense and 61% had been previously convicted of something. Enactment of the Crooks with Guns bill, which specifically targets gun-toting convicted felons by requiring them to serve longer prison sentences, should have a positive impact on the recidivism issue. The bill is now pending in the legislature.

I am extremely grateful to and proud of the men and women of the police department for their tremendous work, but we cannot do it all by ourselves. If crime reduction is to continue, community partnerships must help ensure that our children are directed to the path of education and economy, not the path of crime and prison. There is, however, one place for those dangerous repeat offenders who have shunned rehabilitation. That is a prison cell, not the streets of our neighborhoods.

Happenings



Session 53 ropes course:
Members of Session 53 participate in team building and leadership skills training.



Session 54 Group shot:
Session 54 began training on April 16, 2007

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Sex Crimes and Hermitage Precinct detectives charged a 17-year-old Nashville high school student with aggravated rape, especially aggravated kidnapping, six counts of aggravated robbery, and three counts of attempted aggravated robbery in connection with a February home invasion in Donelson.

Zana Abdulgad Noroly of 229 Shawn Drive was taken into custody at Glencliff High School after the TBI crime laboratory found that his DNA matched DNA recovered from the rape victim. Noroly had been previously identified by detectives as a person of interest and agreed to submit a DNA sample several weeks ago while denying any knowledge of the case. Noroly continued to disavow any involvement in the rape and robbery after his arrest April 18, even after being told of the DNA match.

The home invasion occurred on February 11 in the 200 block of McGavock Pike. Nine victims of Hispanic descent, who ranged in age from 16 to 37, were at the home when three masked gunman forced their way inside. The suspects spoke in both Spanish and English phrases as they demanded money. All of the victims were forced into a rear bedroom. One of the suspects then took the lone female victim, who was several months pregnant, to another room where he raped her.

“Detectives from Sex Crimes and the Hermitage and South Precincts have worked hundreds of hours on this case to get to the point of arresting the person we fully believe committed very serious crimes in that McGavock Pike home February 11,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “I am grateful to the TBI’s DNA specialists for their vital assistance in bringing this teenager to justice.”

Detectives continue in their efforts to identify the two other persons involved in the case.

Undercover detectives arrested an Antioch man for operating two separate marijuana grow rooms, one in an apartment at the Creekstone complex off Stewarts Ferry Pike, and the other inside his 1089 Barnes Road home.

Melvin James Stewart, 26, is charged with two counts of manufacturing marijuana, one count of possessing marijuana for resale, and one count of possessing drug paraphernalia.

The police department received a tip that one of the units at Creekstone (313 Peach Creek Crescent) was apparently being used solely as a place to grow marijuana. During the execution of a search warrant, officers discovered grow lamps on motors that were designed to move over the plants, as well as a system that provided plant nutrition by electric timer. Seized, in addition to the growing equipment, were a laptop computer and one ounce of marijuana.

The investigation led officers to Stewart and his 1089 Barnes Road home. Stewart admitted that he had rented the apartment and owned the growing equipment, but said it was for tomatoes and vegetables, not marijuana. A subsequent search of the home led to the discovery of a growing room in the basement complete with high intensity lamps on motors, hydro

equipment and timers. Seized from the home were 109 marijuana plants and seven pounds of processed marijuana.

“The excellent work of Hermitage Precinct undercover detectives all began with a citizen’s tip,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “The police department is most effective when persons in the community help us by reporting suspicious activity. Anyone suspecting drug activity in their neighborhood can tell us about it anonymously by calling 244-DOPE.”

A vehicle speeding through a school zone was stopped by Officers Kevin Wallace and Andy Vallee. The driver not only had a suspended license and admitted to the officers that he had a loaded pistol in the front console of his vehicle, but a search of the vehicle uncovered a second handgun in the rear console. Both the driver and his passenger are convicted felons and were both charged as felons in possession of a handgun.

Officer Edward Holliday attempted to stop a stolen 2001 Honda Civic when the driver bailed from the car and fled on foot. A perimeter was quickly established and K-9 Officer Terry Burnett and his partner Laz tracked the suspect to her hiding place in a wooded area. She was charged with theft over \$10,000, evading arrest, driving on a suspended license, and unlawful use of drug paraphernalia.

Officer David Hacker stopped a vehicle on Murfreesboro Pike near Fesslers Lane for a seatbelt violation. Officer Hacker could see a handgun in plain view inside the vehicle while he was talking to the driver. Seized in a subsequent search were eleven Valium pills, two grams of Marijuana, and the weapon. The driver, a convicted felon, was charged with felon in possession of a handgun, and drug possession. The passenger was charged with unlawful possession of a weapon, and drug possession.

South

Alert police work by two South Precinct Flex officers April 13 led to the arrest of nine persons on suspicion of taking part in an illegal alien smuggling operation.

The nine persons, eight men and one woman all of Hispanic descent, are being held in the Metro Jail on federal immigration detainers pending a continuing investigation by special agents from United States Immigration & Customs Enforcement.

At 12:30 a.m., South Flex Officers Shaun Hardin and Clay Anderson spotted a van with a headlight missing traveling east on I-24 near Briley Parkway. The driver, Jorge Sosa Aguirre, 28, slowed to almost 40 mph to avoid passing the police car. The officers slowed and stopped the van, which had a California license plate. Inside were nine persons, seven of whom did not speak English. Aguirre was asked if there were any weapons, large amounts of money, or drugs in the van. He said no and consented to a search of the vehicle. During the search, Officer Anderson found \$4,900 in cash hidden in the headliner/roof area of the van.

A routine check of the vehicle through a federal computer database showed that it was suspected of being involved in illegal alien smuggling through which illegal aliens pay for transportation from one part of the country to another.

“This traffic stop for a minor headlight violation obviously resulted in a very significant case,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “I am very proud of the officers on the South Flex team who are performing outstanding police work while most of Nashville sleeps.”

Aguirre was given a traffic ticket for driving without one headlight. Any other charges or action against the nine individuals will result from the federal government.

Coordinated police work resulted in the arrest of a suspected car thief. A car was stolen from a Mapco parking lot on Murfreesboro Pike. The owner of the Mazda had left his car unlocked, keys in the ignition, AND RUNNING, before entering the store.

A citizen, who witnessed the suspect jump into the car and drive off, followed the suspect and notified police. Officers converged on the area as the suspect bailed out of the stolen car near Lyle Avenue. The suspect was taken into custody a short time later. Witnesses identified the suspect and the car was returned to its owner.

East

Officer Dante Wade stopped a black Chevy Impala on Main Street at South 5th Street because the car’s temporary tag was not clearly visible. Officer Wade discovered the driver had an outstanding assault warrant. A subsequent search of the car uncovered a handgun. The 30-year-old suspect has been arrested over 40 times on charges ranging from aggravated robbery and assault to felony cocaine and weapons possessions.

Officers and supervisors continue community policing patrols around North 2nd Street, the James Cayce public housing development, and the Five Points business area.

Officer Melissa Schultz made a traffic stop at the Dellway Villa Apartments for reckless driving. When Officer Schultz stopped the car she could see that the passenger was holding a 2-year-old in her lap, unrestrained.

Further investigation revealed that the two 22-year-old women were neighbors who had left their five other children (ages one through seven) at home without adult supervision. The women were charged with five counts of child neglect. The Department of Children’s Services made arrangements for the children to be cared for by relatives.

The passenger had an outstanding warrant while the driver was in possession of marijuana. The women told investigators they left their apartments around 11 p.m. to do laundry. The officer stopped them at 2 a.m.

The driver of a car stopped for a seatbelt violation on Grace Street near Dickerson Pike was charged with felony drug and weapons possession when 15 grams of marijuana, nine Xanax pills, and a loaded shotgun were seized in a consent search of the vehicle.

Officer James King stopped a vehicle for a tag violation and detected a strong odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search were 50.4 grams of marijuana, a loaded pistol, and \$1,658 cash. The driver was charged with felony drug and weapon possession.

North

Officer Wesley Terry attempted to stop the driver of a vehicle for running a stop sign. The driver was slow to stop and a subsequent search of the vehicle led to the seizure of 95 grams of marijuana, drug scales, baggies, and \$1,553 cash. Three suspects were arrested for felony marijuana possession. One of the suspects was already under house arrest pending his trial on reckless homicide and drug charges.

Officer Joel Rowney alertly spotted a black Grand Prix that matched the description of a car driven by a suspect reported to have been waving a gun around in a convenience store parking lot. Officer Rowney stopped the car and a subsequent search uncovered two pistols. The driver and his three male passengers, ages 18-20, were all charged with unlawful possession of a weapon.

Officer William Fox responded to a stolen vehicle report and discovered a man using a tow truck to haul vehicles to junkyards be sold as scrap metal. He told the officer that he had obtained junk titles for the vehicles legally. Auto Theft Unit Detective Robert Bristol arrived and upon further investigation the suspect was arrested and charged with five counts of motor vehicle theft.

Officers Marcus Babbitt and Robert Nielsen located a man wanted on an outstanding warrant for aggravated kidnapping and took him into custody. The kidnapping is related to a murder investigation in Rutherford County.

West

Outstanding police work by West Precinct Flex Officer Shane Shetler led to the arrest of a serial armed robber who held up four businesses.

Mark Edward Reed, 25, of Wynn Drive, is being held in lieu of \$675,000 dollars bond on four charges of aggravated robbery, two counts of aggravated assault, and one count of attempted carjacking.

During an interview with Detective Norris Tarkington, Reed admitted that he held up the McDonald's at 7010 Highway 70 South, the Mapco at 481 Old Hickory Boulevard, and the Baskin Robbins at 850 Hillwood Boulevard. He was apprehended after robbing Elegance Cleaners at 102 46th Avenue North.

Reed's getaway van ran out of gas shortly after he fled the cleaners. He abandoned the van on 46th Avenue North and made a failed attempt to carjack another vehicle. He continued on foot until he was apprehended by Officer Shetler near Charlotte Pike.

Officer Ernie Wilson stopped the driver of a 1999 Dodge Stratus for a traffic violation on Ireland Street. The driver did not have a license and the car had been reported stolen. A search uncovered cocaine and a semi-automatic pistol inside the Stratus. The suspect, a convicted felon, was charged with felon in possession of a handgun, theft, and possession of cocaine for resale.

West Precinct Officer Joe Hooper's suspicions concerning the driver of a Chevrolet Monte Carlo proved to be accurate. Officer Hooper was about to pull the car over when the driver, Marcellas Knox, 17, spotted him. Knox suddenly stopped the Monte Carlo and fled on foot. Knox was apprehended a short time later by Officer David Miller. Another teenager, Dominique Johnson, 16, stayed inside the Monte Carlo and was also arrested.

An investigation revealed that the two teenagers were suspects in a carjacking Sunday night at Hadley Park. North Precinct detectives charged the both teenagers with aggravated robbery.

Central

Data is being compiled for bars and clubs in the precinct to establish a detailed record of activities and problems. Random spot checks will take place to ensure these businesses are complying with permit regulations and occupancy standards.

Sergeant Blackburn conducted a class for about 40 staff members of the Campus for Human Development and the Downtown Clinic concerning drug addiction. It was a positive experience for attendees and reinforced their partnership with police in fighting criminal activity around the Nashville Union Rescue Mission, the Downtown Clinic, and Room In the Inn.

Officer Paul Smith stopped the driver of a vehicle on McGavock Pike at 8th Avenue South for an equipment violation. The driver had a suspended license. During Officer Smith's investigation, he recovered a handgun from beneath the driver's seat. The driver was charged with unlawful possession of a weapon.

Officer John Wright was traveling behind a vehicle on 1st Avenue South when he noticed a strong odor of marijuana. Officer Wright stopped the vehicle and confirmed that the source of the odor was coming from inside the vehicle. A probable cause search led to the seizure of 38.5 grams of marijuana. The driver was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana for resale.

While investigating a group of suspicious people gathered on Sylvan Street, Officer Jason Cregan engaged one of the men in casual conversation and learned his name. Officer Cregan ran the man's name and discovered he was wanted on an outstanding aggravated robbery warrant. The man was taken into custody.

Officer Michael Pollard arrested the driver of a Ford Expedition on felony drug and weapons charges following a traffic stop at North 1st Street and Oldham Street. The driver had a suspended license and a subsequent search of the SUV led to the seizure of 29 grams of marijuana, \$1,051 cash, drug paraphernalia, and the Ford Expedition.

Special Investigations Division



A traffic stop of a tractor-trailer on I-40 near Bellevue for traveling without a license plate resulted in the seizure of 198 pounds of marijuana. The two Georgia men inside the rig are charged with possession of marijuana for resale.

Interdiction officer Bill Morgan stopped the tractor-trailer April 9 as it headed toward downtown. Morgan asked the driver, Michael Ivan Lennon, 41, of Covington, Georgia, if he could check the truck for contraband. Lennon agreed.

While inspecting the sleeper compartment of the truck, Morgan discovered 12 wrapped bales of marijuana concealed under cots. Lennon and his partner, Douglas Jamal Hightower, 35, of Lithonia, Georgia, had recently moved the marijuana from the trailer to the sleeper compartment so that it would not be discovered among a legitimate shipment of electronic components that was to be offloaded in Nashville.

Detectives have learned that the electronic components were picked up in California; however, the marijuana's origin remains under investigation.

The tractor-trailer rig, which Lennon owns outright, is worth an estimated \$50,000. It was seized under Tennessee's drug trafficking laws.

Strategic Development Division

The Strategic Development Division has been working with Abdirizak Hassan, Executive Director of the Somali Community Center of Nashville, to improve communications between police and refugee/immigrant communities where crime often goes unreported.

The Somali Community Center of Nashville will provide a 90 minute workshop for MNPd officers on how to better serve and understand the culture of these communities. The workshop will be presented by Officer Abdiweli Heibeh of the San Diego Police Department:

May 14, 2007

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

South Precinct Community Room

Anyone interested in attending should contact me for additional information. The Somali Community Center of Nashville has graciously provided our department with this training opportunity at their expense and without cost to the MNPd. Please help to make this first step in our collaboration a successful one!

Lt. Jim Stephens

Metro Nashville Police Department.

Strategic Development Division

615-880-2850 - Office

615-880-3077 – Fax

The following officers in the Field Operations Bureau were chosen Patrol, Police, and Investigator of the Month for March 2007:

Patrol Officer of the Month



South Precinct Officers Carlos Angulo and Daniel Henkel

Police Officer of the Month



South Precinct Officer Neil Wolfe

Investigator of the Month



East Precinct Detectives Paul Harris and Rex Davenport

Blue Notes

Identification Division

Captain Ben Dicke

The Identification Division's Latent Print Section had a great year in 2006. The staff of nine examiners and two supervisors successfully identified 936 suspects in various crimes. The cases range from homicide to vehicle theft. The two highest profile cases are summarized below:

In April 2006 a mother and her teenage daughter were brutally slain in South Nashville. Crime Scene Officers Tommy Simpkins, Tim Matthews and Sergeant Danny Orr spent approximately 16 hours processing the crime scene. They were able to lift a bloody fingerprint from inside the residence and submit the print to the Latent Print Unit.

After weeks of meticulous work, Latent Examiner Larry Farnow was able to match the fingerprint to a suspect in the FBI database. The suspect turned out to be a 16-year-old illegal immigrant that had been fingerprinted by the Border Patrol the previous year.

In December 2006, three suspects shot and killed two clerks at the AM/PM market in Madison. A review of the video from the store's security camera showed one of the suspects touching the cash register. Officer Bill Kirby was able to successfully lift a print from the cash register and submit the print to the Latent Print Unit. After hours of meticulous examination,

Latent Examiner Lorita Marsh was able to identify the suspect as Joshua Brown. Detectives, patrol officers and members of the special response team arrested all three suspects within 24 hours of the crime.

The Identification Division's Ten Print Section is responsible for processing the fingerprints of all arrestees. This unit operated the majority of 2006 with only nine examiners and two supervisors, working on a 24/7 basis. The amount of work this small unit produced for 2006 is simply phenomenal:

These employees reviewed a total of 63,337 fingerprint records. Every fingerprint record is reviewed by two different Ten Print examiners for a total of 126,674 reviews. In addition to these reviews, the Ten Print Section completed 2,038 record corrections, 5,253 expungements, submitted 4,287 hard copy records to the TBI and FBI, uploaded 4,830 juvenile fingerprint records, fingerprinted 1,198 police applicants, and fingerprinted 2,418 persons at the front office. In addition to the work listed above, the Ten Print Section processed an additional 12,294 other miscellaneous items for a total of 158,992 items worked. This equates to a stunning 17,665 items per person for the year.

I would like to publicly thank each member of the Identification Division for their hard work, dedication, and professionalism. Their work ethic and dedication to the MNPD is why the Identification Division is successful in providing support to the officers and detectives of the police department.

Personally, I am proud to be associated with the men and women assigned to the MNPD Identification Division.



Latent Print Examiners Awarded Chief's Coin

Back Row, Left to Right: Danny Morris, Julia Hooper, Lorita Marsh, Linda Wilson, Belinda Shea, Lisa Addelman, Jason Lawrence, Brenda Russell, and Larry Farnow. Front Row, Left to Right: Jacqueline Cockrill, Lt. Polk, and Sharon Trent.



Ten Print Examiners Earn Nomination for Department Commendation

Back Row, Left to Right: Valena Watson, Martia Mitchell, Ronald Howell, Laurie Fleming, and Anita Stewart. Center Row, Left to Right: Christina Dradt, Vivian Stockman, Chris Gentry, Anya Alexander, Lt. Polk, and Eolanda Reynolds. Front Row, Left to Right: Lethia Lewis, Aida Manalac, Patrick Cuthbertson, Antoine Buchanan, and Michael Sullivan.

Background and Recruiting

By Lt. Michele Donegan

Session 54 began April 16 with 35 recruits reporting to the Training Academy.

The Background and Recruitment Unit is currently conducting background investigations for Session 55 which is scheduled to begin July 2. It appears we will have over 50 conditional offers, resulting in a projection of 30-35 trainees for Session 55.

A Civil Service Exam was given March 31. Eighty-eight individuals took the written and physical ability test with 67 applicants finishing in the outstanding category. Ninety applicants are expected to take the next Civil Service Exam scheduled this Saturday, April 21.

The new online application process is working well. Since March 1, over 300 people have applied. In March and April, recruiters attended 10 job fairs at various colleges, high schools, and employment centers in order to recruit the most qualified applicants.

A 15-second recruitment video produced by the Training Division's David Davenport returns to a Regal theater near you May 4 - July 19. The promotional video will be shown during previews before every movie at Hollywood 27, the Bellevue Cinema 12, and the Opry Mills 20.

If you have any questions regarding recruitment, please contact us at 862-7341.

Congratulations:

Sergeant Charles Vance, Strategic Development, and his wife Angie, are the proud parents of Katherine Danielle, born Easter Sunday.

Detective Mike Fisher, East Precinct, and his wife Erin, are the proud parents of Piper Michaela, born April 12.

Officer Curtis Rich, West Precinct, and his wife Kelly, are the proud parents of Gavin, born April 12.

Officer David Wright, Central Precinct, and his wife Amy, are the proud parents of Rylee Oliva, born April 17.

Sergeant Matthew England, Central Precinct, and his wife Lisa, are the proud grandparents of Kaitlyn Abigail, born April 20.



Condolences:

Sergeant Lucian Earl Crocker, retired officer, passed away April 6.

Mr. William Walden, father of Officer Preston Walden, Hermitage Precinct, passed away April 9.

Officer “Puddin” Robert Perry Evans, retired Senior K-9 Trainer, passed away April 11.

Mrs. Verneda Cannon, grandmother of Detective Bill Dillon, Auto Theft Unit, passed away April 12.

Mr. Andrew Ferguson, grandfather of Officer Darren Key, West Precinct, passed away April 15.

Officer Charles Hendricks, retired Hermitage Precinct, passed away April 18.

The grandmother of Officer George Ward, West Precinct, passed away recently.

Mr. William Jarbo, grandfather of Officer Bryon Agoston, passed away April 17.

FYI:

As Officer Danita Marsh continues to recover from her gunshot wounds, the 100 Club of Nashville has committed to help her regain some of life's basic choices by financing the purchase of accessible housing and a specially equipped vehicle. Persons wanting to make a tax deductible contribution to assist Officer Marsh are urged to make checks payable to the 100 Club of Nashville and include the Marsh name on the memo portion. One hundred percent of the money donated will go to the Marsh fund. Checks can be mailed to The Hundred Club of Nashville, P.O. Box 190428, Nashville, Tennessee, 37219-0428.

The 5K walk "Strides for Change" to benefit Mothers Against Drunk Driving is Saturday, May 19, at Centennial Park at 9 a.m.

Walk-teams can consist of Metro Nashville Police Department employees, their families, and friends. To register your team, visit www.stridesforchange.com and choose Nashville as your 5K walk city. Once you register, assign a team leader, and start asking others to sponsor your team's participation. Raising \$100 for MADD is as easy as asking 10 people for \$10.

There is no minimum or maximum to how much you can raise.